

AVP-AUSTRALIA NATIONAL GATHERING 2006 REPORT

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Letter to other Australian AVP facilitators
3. Business Meeting decisions
4. Business Meeting background to some issues
5. Session agendas / reports
6. Connecting with the Sameness Session
7. Exploration of different debriefing models
8. Interfaith Session posters & brainstorm
9. Gathering feedback from participants
10. AVP(NSW) Review of the 2006 National Gathering

I INTRODUCTION

The 2006 AVP-Australia National Gathering was held at Rozelle Public School Sydney from Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 January from 9:00 to 6:00 each day.

The Gathering consisted of four one-day training workshops, each with three to four sessions. The sessions covered different topics and were presented by different facilitators from different groups. The Gathering agenda was put together from the expressions of interest to present a session provided by facilitators in advance of the Gathering.

The Gathering was attended by twenty five facilitators over the four days. There were two facilitators from Queensland, two from Western Australia and one from Canada. The remaining facilitators came from the various AVP(NSW) groups.

The AVP-Australia Business Meeting was held for several hours at the end of the first day. The Meeting decisions have been recorded in this report. Each AVP group is asked to review the decisions and report back to the 2007 National Gathering which decisions they have ratified and which need more discussion.

The Care Bears group was formed again with representatives from each attending group. They provided the Gathering's support and 'caring' role and provided negotiation between facilitators and group as needed.

On Saturday evening there was a social activity at the Devonshire Street Quaker Meeting House with a shared meal and a sing-a-long.

The Gathering was not residential with visitors arranging their own accommodation. Morning, afternoon tea and lunch was provided and facilitators were asked to contribute \$10 per day to cover the catering expenses.

Australian AVP groups are invited to host the 2008 and any subsequent National Gatherings. All Australian AVP facilitators are also welcome to attend the annual AVP(NSW) facilitators gathering on the last weekend of January.

Thank you to everyone involved for your contribution to the success of the Gathering.

Katherine Smith
AVP(NSW)

II LETTER TO AUSTRALIAN AVP FACILITATORS WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE 2006 NATIONAL GATHERING

Australian National Gathering
Rozelle, NSW
Jan 2006

Greetings to AVP facilitators everywhere from the AVP Australia National Gathering

More than twenty facilitators from around Australia and overseas have gathered for four days to exchange experiences, to increase understanding of the AVP process and to consider ways forward for the organisation. Also to have fun learning new exercises and light and livelies!

We have been particularly inspired by the efforts and achievements of both inmate and outmate facilitators in prisons around Australia and by the success and relevance of the new multi-faith initiative

The Gathering would like to express gratitude to the facilitators who could not attend, but continue to work for the project often under very difficult circumstances. It has become apparent during these few days that there is much passion and enthusiasm for AVP and it is heartening that the organisation continues to grow.

In hope and peace

Australian National Gathering 2006 Participants

III BUSINESS MEETING, 26th January 2006

Agenda

- 1 Group reports
- 2 National gatherings
- 3 AVP-Australia
- 4 Annual reports to Quakers
- 5 P'Chang Nonviolence Training Project
- 6 Prisons - the way forward
- 7 AVP paid staff / facilitators / satellites
- 8 New / rejuvenating AVP groups
- 9 Maintaining facilitators

Decisions

- 1 The Gathering agreed that this was an AVP-Australia National Gathering – the various state groups have agreed to this
- 2 The Gathering agreed that the role of a national gathering was education, connection and policy proposals
- 3 The Gathering agreed to the following guidelines
 - That invitations be issued to all AVP groups in Australia and overseas to attend National Gatherings
 - That decisions regarding future gatherings be made at each National Gathering where practical
 - That a quorum consist of people gathered from a majority of states that have current AVP groups
- 4 It was agreed that the above proposals be sent to all AVP groups for ratification
- 5 It was agreed
 - That all states be informed that NSW will have a state gathering on the long weekend in January 2007
 - That NSW is willing to host a National Gathering at this time in Sydney subject to acceptance from other groups
 - That other states be asked to consider the possibility of hosting future National Gatherings
 - That other states will be asked to reply for the 2007 National Gathering by 1st April 2006
- 6 It was agreed to inform states that Malcolm Smith from NSW is currently the international contact person and that he would be happy to relinquish this if someone else would volunteer to do it
- 7 People are happy with the e-groups – newsletters to be put on the e-groups; and the websites are being upgraded

- 8 It was agreed that each state should make their own decision regarding reports to Quaker Yearly Meeting. It was pointed out that our link with Quakers is mutually useful
- 9 It was agreed not to affiliate with the nonviolence training project but that we would pass on news of them through the e-groups. It was agreed that we would not advertise AVP on the nonviolence training website
- 10 A brief report on the new prison regime, The Way Forward was discussed. We agreed we need to move towards accreditation without relinquishing any of our ideals, ways and methods. We were encouraged by the wealth of experience in this area from around the world. 'Don't give up' was the message!
- 11 We agreed that there were many difficulties in having paid staff, not the least the lack of money
- 12 It was agreed that it would be helpful to carry out brainstorming and exchanges of information on the way to expand our work, how to retain facilitators and encourage people to join our workshops.

Sabine
26/1/06

IV BUSINESS MEETING BACKGROUND TO ISSUES

AVP REPORTS TO QUAKERS

Each October Quaker Yearly Meeting Secretary requests a short report from all Quaker groups and affiliated groups for inclusion in the annual Quaker Yearly Meeting Documents in Advance.

AVP state groups have provided these reports to the Quaker Yearly Meeting for the last eight years. AVP-WA decided not to send a copy of their 2005 report to the Yearly Meeting Secretary as they are not officially associated with WA Quakers and do not think it is appropriate for AVP-WA to provide a report to Quakers.

The issue of whether AVP-Australia should have a national position on this was discussed at the National Gathering.

PT'CHANG'S NONVIOLENCE TRAINERS' SKILLSHARE

Iain Murray, the Co-ordinator of the Nonviolence Training Project offered to promote AVP workshops on their website www.nonviolence.org.au. His organisation offers to connect people doing different forms of nonviolence training in Australia including AVP facilitators.

He invited any AVP facilitator who is interested in staying in touch with what others are doing about the country, to join the skillshare egroup <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nonviolence-trainers/>

The issue of whether AVP-Australia should have a national position on this was discussed at the National Gathering.

V National Gathering '06 – Session Agendas

Day 1 Session 1 & 2 Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Community Building + Sameness [WA]
 - a. Concentric circles
 - b. Small groups
- 3 Introductions + Agenda Review + Planning
- 4 Community building – [Q]
- 5 NVC 2pm – 3.30 [Marc Canada]
- 6 Closing

- 1 AVP business meeting

Day 2 Session 3 & 4 Agenda

- 1 Welcome & stretch
- 2 Agenda review
- 3 Prison workshops [# 3.3]
- 4 Role plays [Sydney] [#3.4]
- 5 Various role plays
- 6 Forum theatre [Canada]
- 7 Closing

- 1 AVP business

Day 2 Session 3.3 Agenda [# 3.3] AVP in the Prisons [NSW Prison Group]

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Poem
- 3 Gathering: My affirmation name is...
How I would feel about working with a murderer.
- 4 L & L: Jailbreak
- 5 The Journey
- 6 Sculptures: - Weapon in cell; TAFE book
- 7 Security – small groups
- 8 TP revisited
- 9 Closing: Rainstorm

Day 2 Session 3.4 Agenda Role-play Introduction

1. Welcome & introduction
2. Gathering: A learning edge for me with role-play
3. L & L: What U Doing?
4. Triads – using 3 debriefing questions
5. Triads – NSW model debriefing & deroling
6. Feedback (incl. NSW debriefing model)
7. Closing: Rainstorm

Day 3 Session 5a Agenda Rainbow Circles (Optional – numbers limited)

- 1 Welcome intros.
- 2 Rainbow connection – My name is....
3 favourite things of mine are...
- 3 Agenda
- 4 Rainbow name
- 5 What is it?
- 6 Stormy weather
- 7 Dance storm
- 8 Closing: "Grounding in the Storm"

Day 3 Session 5 Agenda – Interfaith

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Agenda review
- 3 Gathering: MANI & Choice
- 4 Breakout
 - a. Interfaith
 - b. New exercises
- 5 Gathering MANI
Where; What; Why
- 6 Interfaith Agenda
 - a. Buddies
- 7 Personal Space
- 8 Inside/Outside
- 9 Activities brainstorm
- 10 Feedback; close

Day 3 Session 6 Agenda Interfaith Activities

- 1 Gathering: My name;
An impact this program has had on me
- 2 Agenda review
- 3 Activities
- 4 Video – AVP Interfaith
- 5 Where to from here
- 6 L & L Blinky Blink

Day 4 Sessions 7 & 8 Agenda

- 1 Welcome
Stretch (continuous movement)
Agenda review
- 2 First Fridays [# 7.2]
- 3 Middle Session Options:
 - a. Mini-multi-faith
 - b. Role-play comparisons
 - c. Series of activities
- Lunch
- 4 Continuation of 3
- 5 Mentoring & coaching
- 6 Feedback
- 7 Close
- 8 TP revisited
- 9 Closing: Rainstorm

Day 4 Session 7.2 [# 7.2] First Fridays – How's Your Balance

1. Gathering: How I feel when I am balanced
2. Life's continuum
3. L&L: The Balancing Ball
4. A Slice of Pie
5. L&L: What's on Top (based on bean bags)
6. Feedback
7. Closing: Juggling

VI CONNECTING WITH THE SAMENESS SESSION

Morning Session Thursday 26th Jan

"Connecting with the Sameness" facilitated by David Nourish and Jim Thom AVP-WA

Introduction.

This session was designed to explore the connections that often occur in an AVP workshop between people who appear, superficially at least, to be very different. In some ways the focus on alternatives to violence is incidental which may be why the program is suited to interfaith work. In this session we wanted to a) build community in the national gathering group and b) try to observe/consider what it is that makes AVP effective at this and how can we maximise the effect?

Gathering

My name is.....

Something I have given up to be here.....

(Positive names were not mentioned but were almost uniformly used anyway! It was apparent that most people, although they had made sacrifices to attend, very much wanted to be there).

Concentric Circles

This is generally regarded as one of the most powerful community building processes in AVP. We chose questions carefully thinking that some would be more effective than others. They were:

1. A time I had some fun.
2. My most moving AVP moment
3. My favourite scar is.....
4. A non material gift that someone has given me.....

Interestingly in this group there was little difficulty in discussing any of the topics (AVP facilitators all!). Our hypothesis was that questions which were about "values," numbers 2 and 4, were more likely to connect the pair than others. In general this was perhaps true although it was difficult to assess. Questions such as numbers 1 and 3 may serve a different, but equally important function – that of allowing people to talk freely on a non threatening topic. During the processing a couple of important points were raised. Firstly that discussion of scars may not always be appropriate in mixed interfaith groups and secondly that the use of superlatives such as "most" in Q2 is limiting and requires a difficult judgement on the part of the speaker. "A moving AVP moment" would be preferable. There was general agreement that concentric circle questions are important and can be tailored for specific workshops. Somewhere along the line at the Nat gathering I acquired a list suitable for multifaith workshops (19 questions - ? from AVP NSW – thanks to whoever gave them to me!).

Light and Lively

We did big wind blows. Is this suitable for multifaith? I like it because it is easy to set up and understand and usually results in lots of laughter with only a few major injuries.

Small Group Discussions

In groups of about four we considered what it is that leads to effective connections with the "sameness in the other." A selection of ideas is below:

- The whole process. The building blocks of the workshop on the foundation of a safe place.
- The role model of sharing and vulnerability provided by the facilitation team.
- Affirmation.
- The collective consciousness, wisdom and energy of the group
- The real relationship between facilitators which develops during team building and is transmitted to the group. The integrity of the team and the ultimate willingness to stop a workshop if they feel the AVP process is not being followed honestly.
- The ability of AVP and the facilitation team to adapt the workshop to the needs of a particular group.
- Specific exercises which help build connection were suggested – Inside/Outside, In Common, A gathering "What I like about my Culture." Deep Looking in pairs. Gender – Outer Space, Gatherings in general, concentric circles, light and livelies..
- AVP is open and unlimiting
- The sharing nature of many exercises. Examples are dance, building, singing, L+Ls
- Common aims – allows for creativity
- Physical closeness
- Listening and being heard
- Trust
- Respecting each other's opinions
- Sharing the talk space – disciplined communication
- Being prepared to risk and open with emotions
- Discovering what we have in common
- Deep reflection in community
- Non judgemental

There were others which I can't recall well enough from my scant notes but two things emerge clearly. One is that the community building is multifactorial. Second is the crucial importance of the team in modelling the connection that we are trying to achieve in the group.

Jim & David
AVP-WA

VII EXPLORATION OF DIFFERENT DEBRIEFING MODELS

This is a summary of the discussion and brainstorm comparing and evaluating two different models of debriefing AVP learning activities including role-play.

MODEL 1 AVP(NSW)

Basic Three Debriefing Questions	Alternatives for use with role-plays
1 What happened in this activity for you?	How was that for you? What was that like for you? What was it like when?
2 What was the hardest thing about that for you? (optional)	How might that have affected others?
3 Is there anything you would do differently next time? (optional)	Is there anything you need to do or say to? Are you OK to move on?

MODEL 2

- "How did it go for everyone?"
- "What feelings did you experience during this activity?"
- "What did we learn and how can we use this in our daily lives?"

SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION

The general message in the feedback seemed to be:

- Some parallels between the two approaches even though different words. A possible drawback with the approach that specifically asks about feelings is that it can shut down "feelings" people. The more open approach of asking "What happened" seemed to provide more opportunity for any personality style
- A key issue in the discussion was to reflect on the learnings & relate them to real life which is often done with the "What happened" debrief questions if the discussion hasn't already covered that aspect
- It seemed that the more prescriptive approach, whilst having some benefits, is possibly not as broadly applicable as the open "What Happened" approach. The discussion seemed to reinforce the value of having the additional follow up questions including "How does that relate to real life or your life or similar wording" available in the What Happened approach if they are required. However it seemed more efficient to only use the one question if that's sufficient to draw out the potential learning & debrief the group.

Following are the specific words that were captured but the above is, I believe, the essence of what was said.

FEEDBACK BRAINSTORM

- When asked about feelings it can shut down a 'feeler'
- "What happened" opens them up but for others not so & they may need the additional questions
- Parallel between questions in two approaches though words are different
- Not enough time to talk about the debrief experience
- Not limited to – can be both
- Experience preferable than facts – thinkers can get bogged down in the detail of the facts but what happened for you is more likely to get to how they experienced it – what they felt
- With what did you notice – thinkers can become focused on the factual details
- It's important to verbalise the learning after the experience & then apply in life – the impact of the learning is greater
- Liked the 3 questions - facts – feelings etc
- After what happened then next questions can draw out the info if needed
- But often that's not required & the one question can elicit all that is required
- Role play in prison can be frustrating - Need to set topic – brainstorm helps & then guide selection – especially in prison role plays
- Reviewing the missed opportunities to transform the conflict
- For some it works to be asked about feelings but not good for others
- Questions are a starting point & use that to guide how we take it from there
- Does "What happened" at the end - leave it more open for different types of responders eg thinkers & feelers
- Valued the so what – how's it relate to real life questions – double ticks
- Focus on what learning can come from it.

GROUP REFLECTION FOR THIS SESSION

- Good to have the theory then practice then real thing
- A process – different stages - long process – practice aspects separately
- Useful to compare styles - step by step of mechanics can also be useful
- Beneficial to work with other facilitators before practicing skills on participants
- Good modelling.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS SESSION FACILITATORS

- Introduction to role-play training is more appropriately done by local AVP groups rather than at a national gathering with its mixture of experienced and less experienced facilitators
- Advanced role-play training with the sharing of experiences and new ideas is appropriate for national gatherings.

Julie Ann
AVP-Sydney

VIII AVP INTERFAITH WORKSHOP PROGRAM-POSTERS & BRAINSTORMS

REGULAR ACTIVITIES ADAPTED FOR ALL WORKSHOPS

- Affirmation Pyramid (non touching)
- Buddies (careful matching, eg. same sex partners)
- Crossing the River (no touching, select teams, maybe Advanced)
- Energy Hands (no touching)
- Goals / Relationship Circle [to review symbols like owls]
- Hassle Lines (selection of partners)
- The Journey (how different faiths & cultures can impact on people's journeys)
- Koala Hug (mention touching, maybe Advanced)
- The Machine (non touching)
- Noah's Ark (eyes down not closed to prevent collisions)
- Party Time / Assumptions (add cultural sensitivities)
- Personal Space [cultural sensitivities brainstorm - # DO EVERY WORKSHOP after Safety Circle and before any potentially touching activity)
- Repeating question (selecting partners)
- Rhythm Clap (touch own knees – no touching)
- Safety Circle (# do every workshop)
- Singing (cultural sensitivities of songs, content and singing)
- Tenants and Houses (no touching)
- Trust activities (select partners/small groups, no cross sex touching)
- Violence / Nonviolence Trees (cultural sensitivity)
- Weaving (mention touching, maybe Advanced)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES USED IN INTERFAITH WORKSHOPS

- Alphaville
- Environment Sculpture
- Fresh Mind, Wild Mind
- Global Specific
- Going Dotty
- In Common
- Mandala Creation
- One word
- Perceptions, Partial Knowledge
- Testers, Waders and Plungers

ACTIVITIES ADAPTED FOR INTERFAITH WORKSHOPS

- Concentric Circles (interfaith topics)
- Gatherings (interfaith topics)
- Lets Build – a spiritual / sacred space
- Inside / Outside (outside faith symbols, rituals or experiences)

ACTIVITIES NO LONGER USED

- Back Rub
- Frogs and Crocs
- Hokey Pokey
- Tangles or Knots

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

- Interfaith workshops – check mix of different faith groups
- Food – check of special requirements before workshop eg. Halal and Kosher
 - Usually have vegetarian food from Halal shop
 - Everyone can eat together even if food is prepared and served separately
- Food preparation hygiene considerations

AVP INTERFAITH WORKSHOPS – WHERE TO FROM HERE BRAINSTORM

- Limits to growth
- New concepts ideas
- Core AVP values eg. Non-denominational, secular and spiritual not religious
- Limited numbers
- Opportunity to share faith is attractive for some
- Hard to get people to commit for 2 days
- People's attachment to their religion
- Connecting Communities – new title
- Building Communities
- Hold workshops within communities – mini taster and basic workshops
- Advanced workshops - Interfaith, with various faith groups represented
- The importance of co-operation
- Not imposed on from without
- Strong importance of family in Muslim community but lack intimate conversation

Ongoing relationship with FAIR

- One year project finished
- Permanent link in websites
- FAIR will continue to promote AVP-Interfaith workshops

AVP INTERFAITH DRAFT VIDEO

Seyfi showed the draft copy of the video for feedback. Copies of the final version will be available for all AVP groups.

FEEDBACK BRAINSTORM OF THE AVP INTERFAITH VIDEO

- Move some of Katherine's talk earlier
- Get comments from some outside
- Missed light and livelies
- Explanation of philosophy and journey
- Liked pan down agenda
- Building blocks longer
- Include Mandala
- Great mix of ages, cultures and faiths
- Pick up volume of soft voices
- Loved music – choice, does it mirror different faiths
- Title of people names?
- Cut off Katherine's voice – 1 cut off word before role-play near beginning
- Contribution of Malcolm on the balcony
- Wonderful vignette
- Wow, all it took to create
- Good to see those who facilitate
- Have Seyfi's voice before and after intro and gathering or outcomes
- Blurbs of outcomes, different voices
- AVP contrives to do ...
- Include websites
- Good!
- Look forward to sharing it.

IX 2006 NATIONAL GATHERING FEEDBACK

Feedback Sheets

Smileys –

Overall : 1 x8, 2 x5, 3 x1

Content : 1 x7, 2 x6, 3 x1

Process : 1 x6, 2 x5, 3 x3

Facilitation 1 x10, 2 x4, 3 x1

(Ranking 1=excellent, 2=good, 3=OK, 4=unsatisfactory, 5=poor).

Suggestions

- 4 days is long and tiring
- Do we need 4 days? Can we get by with 3?
- If possible some free time to sniff the air outside occasionally (I know this is not realistic)
- Can we have water jugs and cups/glasses available on a table
- Air-conditioning would be good
- Parking and noise some frustration
- Can you consider more choices with lunches/variety/money collected for catering
- Clearer separation of NSW and National components would help me in the future
- Separate elements for a clearer invitation
- More from outside Sydney
- Some of the Saturday afternoon discussions could have been done as activities, more experiential, more variety eg. breaking into small groups and coming back again
- If possible, some forward planning as to how tasks could be turned into engaging activities
- I just needed to give myself permission to zone out / get up / change my physical condition
- National Gatherings come to Melbourne & involve local facilitators and AVP community
- Need to be reminded of 'share voice space' – generally speaking only once until others have all had the chance to speak
- Perhaps have some space to break up the intensity eg. Start late on Sunday to allow for own worship style
- Maybe aim for less? But what I don't know
- Allowing more time for debriefs and the unexpected so that we could prioritise better the activities that we had to abandon

Highlights

- Marc's sessions – being supported emotionally, process of needs, feelings, conflict
- First Friday How's Your Balance
- Business meetings
- Opportunity for deep connection
- Contacts with 'new' people
- Being with people
- Forum theatre
- Being part of this community again and feeling the positive energy
- Getting in touch with everyone again, connections
- Brushing up on old skills and learning new activities
- Rainbow Circle

- Rainbow Circles and art experiences
- Connection and insights
- Interaction with other facilitators
- Talking with new people
- Sense of being in community, AVP community

What changed you inside

- Not sure yet! Will know as I reflect during the days ahead
- Hearing about the Rainbow Circles provided me with much hope
- Martin's Mandala activity
- The Mandala
- Revisiting the Alphaville activity, thinking through the challenges and the learning
- A sense of team : had time to talk
- Everything came together to help give me the clarity and inspiration I needed to do the work I want to do (personally and professionally)
- Rainbow Circle, able to deal with some of my stuff and let it go. Felt in a totally different space today
- Trying to work through my concerns about cultural domination and gender issues relating to categories of 'male' and 'female'
- My reflections, like the balance between others helping & being there to help
- John's sung meditation, and maintaining focus
- Opening to other ways of doing things
- The beautiful moment of John sharing his meditation and music
- Personal contact with facilitators

How change how you deal with violence

- Realisations / insights about centredness, calm integrity allows for 'flow' and thinking before reacting
- Honouring my internal self allowed me changes to have my needs met
- Few new insights and lots of information
- Look at the violence I do to myself
- Again more heightened awareness of the variety of forms, more responsibility for my part in violent patterns of relating
- When I feel agitated, remember to ground myself
- Practice the experience of my rainbow heart
- Each workshop I hope I come closer to dealing with the violence within me – I need a constant reminder and support
- Concerns about passivity, assertiveness and aggression discussion was useful as well as discussions about trust
- An increased awareness of my personal level of responsibility especially in empowering those I live with. Be there, but don't 'have to help'
- New ways of presenting activities
- Knowing that we will continue to look at better ways. New ideas are available

Least helpful

- Long time spent on analysis of interfaith and other activities
- Less structured than I expected. I did not know as much as I should about what to expect (my fault)
- Having to change from doing Rainbow Circles
- Saturday afternoon, several sitting, talking activities in a row – some business type activities done as discussions

- The in-depth analysis of the activities – there's a lot of sitting!
- Too much talking at times. Some people speaking too often and for extended periods
- Long bits – some discussions (gatherings were too long for me) and sometimes got a bit off topic
- Took a lot of time to get through things
- Going overtime

Facilitation

- Appreciated the creative
- Thank you for your efforts and commitment
- Teamwork was awesome
- Please allow sensitive time for debriefing when group has gone 'deep' or one/some may have triggers
- Tremendous energy, but carried by a few. I did not come prepared to support
- I thought it flowed well, but maybe if there had been some prior allocation of areas needing to be covered, more focused thought would have been given to some aspects
- Friendly, effective, collaborative, inspirational
- Excellent, especially as participants were lax on time
- Generally worked extremely well
- I really valued the flexibility and the richness of input from so many different people
- It was good – many offers to share was real and this helped everyone to feel part of the process
- Happy with it all

Comments

- Great
- Great job! Thank you all
- Rozelle venue great. Good back-up to Camperdown
- Enjoyed the larger space of 3 rooms
- Thank you
- Overall I enjoyed the experience and learned a lot
- I got just what I'd expected and hoped for, and more. Thank you so much for the effort you've put in, it is so greatly appreciated
- Venue – pretty good – loved being close to Rozelle on the water. The room was a lot cosier than Camperdown
- Workshop overall - well-balanced, varied in presentations and frequent checking in to see what the group wanted
- Content – excellent, well-balanced, loved the variety, and checked with participants
- Process – good mix of facilitators
- Party was an excellent idea – good tension breaker for me personally
- Thanks to all involved. It was wonderful and challenging
- Loved the diversity and input
- Thanks very much for having this. The content was the responsibility of us all
- Love to have one in WA but
- Many thanks. Thanks for organising, facilitation, sharing etc etc
- Good venue, good food, thanks Malcolm
- Workshop and material were all good

X AVP(NSW) COUNCIL FEEDBACK, February 2006

National Gathering

- The 2006 AVP-Australia National Gathering was a success
- The members of the 2006 Gathering decided that this gathering would be called a National Gathering as there were representatives from three states and apologies from another state
- AVP(NSW) has offered the AVP(NSW) Facilitators Gathering in January 2007 as a National Gathering. An invitation to host the NG will be sent out to all groups and they will be asked to reply by the end of April
- The notes from the NG will be circulated when they are completed.

National Gathering Brainstorm

These are the items from the brainstormed review of the 2006 National Gathering at the Feb'06 Council Meeting

- Liked early finish
- How can we maximise our time (like International Gathering model)
- Community in kitchen not effective as wished, cleaning up not equally shared - volunteers?
- Saturday night singing – please repeat
- Good to offer 2007 NG to other states
- Great that it was 'national' – done well
- In the past it was residential
- Organisation worked well
 - Coming and going for each day worked well
- Organisation could be tighter
- Length – 3 days or 2 days or 3 ½ days
- Training needs - prior planning
- More people to help with organising
- Good to have business at the end of the day so it is optional
- Optional activities, especially for visitors, could be provided
- Optional extra training days.

AVP Carers

- There was a NG decision to change the name from 'Care Bears' to 'Carers'
- Having carers works
- Separate roles facilitation co-ordination from carers role
- People to co-ordinate facilitation eg. from out of state
- Facilitation co-ordinators for whole gathering rather than day-by-day
- Shared team

Role-play

- Valuable to have role-play comparisons between groups at NG
- Time would be saved by introduction to role-play at a different time
- Introductory role-play training to be taken out of NG
- Could have combined introduction to role-play workshop eg. at Blackheath where there is free accommodation
- Give full day for introduction to role-play workshop

Food

- some community / some not
- could pay in advance for catering
- repetitious
- economical
- groups responsible
- simple or more up-market.